



Update on Ban in Thailand of Agricultural Pesticides

1. Background

Industry was advised in Updates No.1 (29 October 2019), No.2 (8 November 2019) and No.3 (28 November 2019) of the decision of Thailand's government as agreed on Tuesday 22 October 2019 to ban the use of chlorpyrifos, glyphosate and paraquat in Thailand. Chlorpyrifos-methyl was subsequently added to the list.

Thailand subsequently reversed the ban on glyphosate. In addition the ban for paraquat, chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl was deferred until 1 June 2020.

This update provides industry with further advice recently received from Thailand.

2. Latest Advice from Thailand

In summary, Thailand's government via SPS Notification 567 has advised the following:

- To update the list of hazardous substances (category 4) to include paraquat, chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl.
- The hazardous substances are prohibited for production, import, export and possession.
- MRLs of zero for these hazardous substances will apply to all grain including imports.
- This notification will be in effect and enforced on 1 June 2020.

Various regulatory exchanges between the responsible Thailand ministries are currently occurring to ensure appropriate mechanisms are in place to enforce the new laws as of the required date of 1 June 2020.

3. Industry Action from Here

As advised to industry in previous updates, there remains several unanswered questions, including the nature of the enforcement of this change in Thailand. It is unclear if additional monitoring of shipments prior to/at discharge at Thailand ports or certification of exports will be needed.

If further relevant advice is received industry will be notified.

In the interim, industry should continue to develop and implement appropriate management systems to meet the new MRL requirement as of 1 June 2020. This may include adoption of additional sampling, testing and certification arrangements prior to vessel loading to assist meeting any future challenges.